

# YOUR HOME



An update from your

**COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**  
for Muskegon County

# YOUR COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Cover photo courtesy of Tim Bonnette  
 photosbybonnette.shootproof.com

We are inspired by the events of the past year - not because of what occurred, but by the innovation, perseverance, and determination exemplified. How we responded was affirming of the values embraced by the Community Foundation:

- Hope and opportunity, particularly for youth
- Collaborative community goals and decision making
- An inclusive community

The residents of Muskegon County stood tall, providing much-needed financial support for families, neighbors, the nonprofit organizations supporting them, and local businesses impacted by the pandemic. Residents came together, held hands to denounce racism and hate, clearly stating that "Love Lives Here."

Simultaneously, your Community Foundation strengthened and forged relationships with community partners - from local nonprofits and educators to faith leaders and neighborhoods - to serve the needs of individuals, families, and businesses.

This report is dedicated to you, the GREATER community of Muskegon County. It celebrates the richness of community while highlighting the intentional, impactful contributions of our partners.

Thank you for all you have done to make Muskegon County a vibrant community with great opportunities for all.

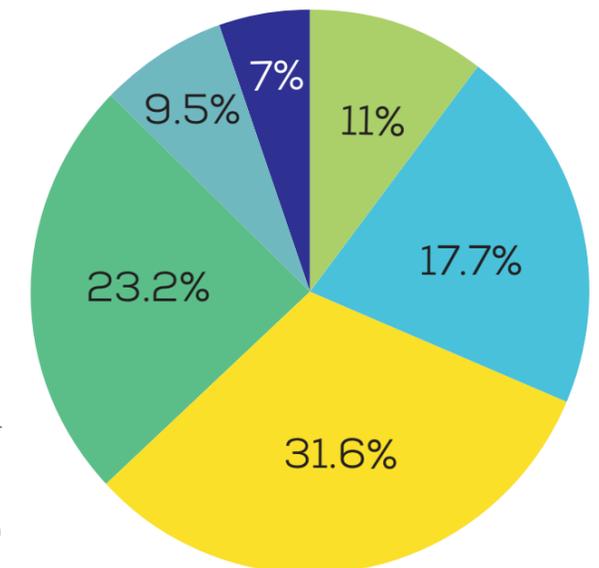
Todd Jacobs  
 President/CEO

### Highlights from 2020, including our Mason County affiliate:

Gifts Received: \$11,397,586  
 Grants & Scholarships Awarded: \$12,061,882  
 Total Assets: \$246,724,795

### Strategic and Discretionary Funding

<span style="color: green;">■</span> COVID-19 Relief \$169,050	<span style="color: cyan;">■</span> Fostering a Dynamic, Local Economy \$128,781
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Frauenthal Center \$230,000	<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Enhancing Community Trust & Promoting Prosperity for All \$51,038
<span style="color: lightgreen;">■</span> Other \$80,120	<span style="color: teal;">■</span> Advancing Educational Attainment \$69,000



# YOUR FUTURE

Advancing educational attainment

Julie Beyrle Schugars was a much-beloved teacher at Oakridge, known as “Mrs. Coach” to the players her husband, Jack, led in football. Well-known for her immense generosity, Julie quietly provided guidance and monetary funds for students in need over the years, even during her retirement. Following her passing last year, the community poured out their love in the form of memorial gifts to the **Julie Schugars Memorial Scholarship Fund**. It will provide scholarships in Julie’s name – forever – to Oakridge High School graduates who are pursuing the field of education.



Julie Schugars and family, photo courtesy of Jack Schugars

Through advocacy for equitable education opportunities, your support has a direct impact on our students’ access and ability to learn. We’ve engaged in many advocacy efforts over the past year, including:

- Support for the **Vote Yes for MPS campaign** for Muskegon Public Schools’ bond proposal, which centered on creating healthy and safe learning environments for all MPS students, as well as enhancing arts and athletic programs that empower students to succeed.
- An initiative that identified a lack of internet access for virtual learning students in the county and bridged the Wi-Fi gap through collaboration with local libraries, schools, and faith partners to open their Wi-Fi access to the public and promote free hotspots around the community.



- Continued work with the **Muskegon County Literacy Collaborative**, a partnership between Read Muskegon, the MAISD, area libraries, and many other partners focused on ensuring that all individuals in need of improved literacy skills, no matter their age, have access to the information and resources they need to succeed.

# REIMAGINED

Since adjusting to virtual meetings and grantmaking, the **Muskegon County Youth Advisory Council (YAC**, pictured right) is continuing to grant funds to local youth-serving organizations and projects. Their focus on improving student mental health and academic stress led them to support area nonprofits with over \$44,000 in grant awards in 2020, including funding for the Diatribe and their program *Poetry Empowered*, Hospice of Michigan’s grief support services for youth, and Planned Parenthood of Michigan for their *Making Proud Choices* program.

The YAC also supported school district employees with 30 teacher mini-grants totaling over \$7,000, including funds for robotics kits, books, and art supplies. Recently, the YAC voted unanimously to increase the award limit for future teacher mini-grants to \$500 (previously \$250).



To support educators in Muskegon County during the pandemic, we distributed a survey to address the needs of teachers, students, and virtual classrooms. We received over 540 responses that shed light on efforts needed to increase and sustain student engagement and attendance. A special round of **teacher mini-grants** offered up to \$750 per teacher in public and private schools serving Muskegon County students. Using discretionary funds, including support from the YAC and the West Shore Mental Health Fund, we awarded 74 grants to more than 15 districts, totaling \$23,152 for local teachers and classrooms.

# YOUR INVESTMENT

Fostering a dynamic, local economy

In July of 2020, we hosted the **Be Counted, Muskegon!** event in Rowan Park to assist community members with filling out the 2020 Census and registering to vote (pictured below). While masked and socially distanced, attendees enjoyed music from DJ Q89 and a free lunch. This event would not have been possible without HealthWest, Great Start Collaborative, Hackley Public Library, and other local partners who provided masks, Wi-Fi access, children's books, and volunteers.

Thanks to a grant from the Michigan Nonprofit Association, this event was only the tip of the iceberg; while advocating for Census completion throughout the past year, we partnered with close to 40 organizations, held seven events, and brought \$2,426,400 to the residents of Muskegon County.



Through a partnership with the United Way of the Lakeshore, a fund was designed to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on local families and members of the community. The **COVID-19 Response Fund** was created at the United Way with seed money from the Community Foundation, United Way, and corporate partners Meijer and Consumers Energy Foundation.

More than 280 donors raised \$308,000 for the COVID-19 Response Fund. The funds were used to support organizations on the front line serving the Muskegon County community, such as Every Woman's Place, Harbor Hospice, and the Mission for Area People.

# IN PROSPERITY



*The Hilleary family, photo courtesy of Brad Hilleary*

Brad and Janice Hilleary have a long history of involvement with giving to the Muskegon community, and the Community Foundation in particular. Brad currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees. In that role, he's learned of the power of community and economic development work using Program Related Investments (PRI). The Hillearys started their own Donor Advised Fund, the **Brad & Janice Hilleary Family Fund**, last year to help expand this work and better facilitate their giving in the community. A gift from their fund helped us invest \$350,000 toward the **Muskegon County Recovery Loans** program with Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women (GROW), which offered support for small businesses in the midst of COVID-19. GROW is a nonprofit organization focused on empowering entrepreneurs at various stages of business ownership through educational opportunities, business mentorship, workshops, and microloans.

The **B. A. Westgate Fund** was created in 2004 by Basil (Bud) Westgate, founder of Westgate Oil (Wesco). Bud understood the importance of working hard and taking advantage of the opportunities that life presented him. Over the years, the B.A. Westgate Fund has been used to make loans to nonprofit organizations helping Muskegon County residents reach their dreams. Before his passing, Bud also crafted an estate plan to ensure his impact would be felt for years to come. This year, his fund contributed to a PRI toward new construction **housing in the Jackson Hill neighborhood**. In partnership with the City of Muskegon and other local contributors, this market-rate housing development utilizes vacant lots in the city that are close to many downtown amenities, presenting opportunities for families looking to move into the Muskegon area.



*New construction in the Jackson Hill neighborhood, photo courtesy of the City of Muskegon*

# YOUR VOICE



Rick and Joe on their wedding day, photo courtesy of the Murak and Panici family

Both born and raised in Muskegon County, Rick Murak and Joe Panici met over 20 years ago as volunteers for Summer Celebration. Since then, they've spent a lot of time supporting and volunteering for various organizations in the community, including the Michigan Irish Music Festival, Muskegon Art Museum, and Frauenthal Center – where they celebrated their wedding in 2015.

In 2012, Rick and Joe came to the Community Foundation to set up an Estate Plan Distribution Agreement (EPDA). Rick and Joe are the first gay couple to establish a plan together at the Community Foundation, ensuring that their long history of giving back to the community can continue for generations to come.

In addition to their EPDA, Rick and Joe started a Build A Fund in 2013 when they realized there was a way to put their future plans in place immediately. Over the years, they've grown it into a Donor Advised Fund, building a permanent resource to support their community while maintaining flexibility over where and how their gifts make a difference in Muskegon County.

When it comes to generosity, Rick and Joe believe it's important to give of yourself to make the community a better place – whether you're giving time, skills, knowledge, or whatever else you can. The **Rick M. Murak and Joseph A. Panici Fund** will support efforts that Rick and Joe believe enrich Muskegon County, going beyond essential needs to focus on the things that make our lives more beautiful: public parks, green space, beaches, and animal welfare.

# AND VALUES

Enhancing community trust and promoting prosperity for all



The **Muskegon LEAD (Leading Efforts Against Discrimination) Giving Circle** (pictured left) was organized to collectively fund initiatives in Muskegon County specifically and intentionally focused on justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI). The circle is comprised of over 40 diverse, young community members with a shared vision of creating a vibrant community with great opportunities for all.

In the fall of 2020, the Muskegon LEAD Giving Circle virtually gathered to select its first grant recipient, the Coalition for Community Development (CCD). The mission of the CCD is to build relationships with neighbors to support a thriving community in Muskegon Heights, and they have been on that journey for the last 16 years.



Photo courtesy of the Coalition for Community Development

"We are honored and humbled to be selected by the LEAD Giving Circle to receive this meaningful award," said Kerri VanderHoff, executive director of the CCD. "Thank you to all involved for the recognition and confidence in the CCD and for the investment to help continue JEDI work within our community. Our commitment to the legacy of Dr. Doris Rucks, our founder, guides us and grounds us firmly in grassroots, resident-driven efforts that seek to empower one another."

To become a LEAD Giving Circle member, support their work, or learn more, contact Pete DeBoer at [pete@muskegonfoundation.org](mailto:pete@muskegonfoundation.org).

# YOUR COMMUNITY

Coming together for meaningful impact

In the fall of 2020, the Community Foundation welcomed grant applications focused on our three strategic goals: advancing educational attainment; fostering a dynamic, local economy; and enhancing community trust and promoting prosperity for all. The **Strategic Leadership Grant round** is the first to intentionally focus on these efforts. Whether it's visualizing a more vibrant community in Muskegon Heights, collaborating with community partners to create a bigger impact on our economy, or providing affordable housing and daycare solutions, these projects are addressing challenges and opportunities here in Muskegon County.

- The **enCompass Affordable Community Housing (EACH) Down Payment Assistance Program** aims to address neighborhood disparities as research shows that where you grow up strongly affects your economic mobility, well-being, and health. These new developments allow for home ownership opportunities and quality housing for low- to moderate-income families interested in making the City of Muskegon their home.
- The **Y Learning Center** is a collaborative project between the Muskegon YMCA and Goodwill Industries of West Michigan. The center was created in direct response to the Muskegon 100-Day Challenge, which identified the lack of affordable, accessible, and quality childcare as a significant employment barrier in Muskegon County. The facility has four separate classrooms and is equipped to serve 72 children.



EACH development rendering, photo courtesy of Community enCompass

- Once in the **Eviction Prevention Program**, participants meet with housing specialists who provide connections to the resources tenants need to remain stably housed. This initiative not only wards off homelessness but also keeps families from being uprooted, prevents children from being forced to change schools, and much more.
- The intent of **Reaching New Muskegon Heights** is to complete a vision with phases, estimated costs, and design plans that will ignite the dreams of the community. The initial steps in the process include a walking tour of downtown Muskegon Heights, key stakeholder focus groups, and public engagement.



The new Y Learning Center, photo courtesy of the Muskegon YMCA

# GOALS

**Community Empowerment Small Grants (CESGs)** are tools provided by the Community Foundation to build a vibrant community with great opportunities for all. These grants are designed to empower organizations that may not yet have a 501(c)(3) status but seek support to foster change across our county. CESG grantees are strengthening community partnerships, building relationships, and providing hope and opportunity to many people throughout Muskegon County. In 2020, the CESG program awarded 27 grants to local community groups! A few highlights include:

- **Servicios de Esperanza** received \$3,000 to provide reduced-cost drug testing for returning citizens who need to meet their probation requirements
- **NAACP Muskegon Branch #3147** received \$1,300 for absentee ballot drop boxes for Muskegon and Muskegon Heights ahead of the 2020 election
- **The Deborah Project** received \$3,000 for food, household items, personal care items, childcare, and mentoring and counseling for single-parent homes



Supplies for Deborah Project parents, photo courtesy of the Deborah Project



Carol and Dave McLeod

Giving back has long been a priority for Dave and Carol McLeod. Their philanthropic interest led them to start the **McLeod Scholarship Fund** in 2003, in memory of their son, Doug. After Carol's passing in the spring of 2020, Dave established the **Dave & Carol McLeod Fund** to continue his family's legacy of giving back to the community.

The McLeods have been long-time supporters of the arts in Muskegon County, often attending performances from Cherry County Playhouse, Muskegon Civic Theatre, and the West Michigan Symphony over the years. For his birthday in 1998, Carol gifted Dave with a Frauenthal Theater seat. It was this gift that began their journey of giving to the Frauenthal Center and the Community Foundation. After a recent tour of the Frauenthal Center, Dave reaffirmed his and Carol's love for the theater with a multiyear gift to the **Frauenthal Preservation Campaign Fund**.

In addition to their existing funds, Dave has also made plans for a future gift through his estate, ensuring that their long history of generosity will continue.

# YOUR GENEROSITY

Supporting nonprofits during the pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic created a new normal for the people of Muskegon County. On all fronts – economy, education, access to nonprofit services – the vulnerable populations of our community shouldered the greatest burden. In response to the pandemic’s impact on our community, we held **Match Day** on June 3, 2020, which raised over \$575,000 for 42 nonprofits along the lakeshore.



1,809 online donations reached over \$290,000  
 30 Donor Advised Funds made 85 grants to nonprofits  
 Over \$90,000 in checks collected by participating nonprofits  
 Match pool from local donors totaled \$123,915  
**Total amount raised for Muskegon County’s nonprofit community:**

# \$578,403

Match Day was developed by the Community Foundation, partnering with the United Way of the Lakeshore and local donors, to provide operating support to organizations that typically rely on private fundraising to fulfill their missions. In addition to a \$75,000 grant from the Community Foundation’s Unrestricted Funds, the following sources **funded the match pool** and made Match Day possible:

- Anton Family Fund
- Batka Family Fund
- Essex Family Fund
- Jan L. Deur Fund
- Pat & Julie Donahue Fund
- Trip & Nina Johnson Family Fund
- Action Industrial Supply
- Sand Products/Mart Dock Fund
- Wahlberg Family Fund
- Rick & Pam Kramer Fund
- i'move Fund
- Doris & Jack Mixer Fund
- Chis McGuigan & Gary Neal
- 71 individual contributions on Match Day

# ON MATCH DAY

## Nonprofit Impact

“For us, it goes to our COVID emergency relief fund, which allows us to provide nonemergency medical transportation for seniors – appointments like dialysis, cancer treatment facilities – and, of course, all the meals we’re providing right now and a lot of prevention around elder abuse.”

– Kris Collee, AgeWell Services of West Michigan

“We’ve been delivering food, we’ve been packaging food. The numbers have absolutely doubled.”

– Diana Wright Stubbs, Mission for Area People

“Help us continue to keep those bonds that we’ve created, to keep our friends and neighbors informed, to gather with us as we move forward through this and emerge even stronger. We’re building a great thing. There’s good things happening there. It needs to continue.”

– Kerri VanderHoff, Coalition for Community Development

“Funding is critical ... We depend on this Match Day. We can’t fundraise like we normally would because of COVID-19.”

– Shauna Hunter, Pathfinders of Muskegon



Photos courtesy of AgeWell Services of West Michigan, Mission for Area People, CCD, and Pathfinders of Muskegon

# THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO GAVE ON MATCH DAY!

We are humbled and deeply grateful for the generosity shown by our community. You have reminded us all that the giving spirit of Muskegon County is absolutely unmatched. We are overwhelmed and very proud to be a part of this community and look forward to continually working together for a better future.

# YOUR CENTER FOR

Bringing community together for 90 years

For the last 90 years, the Frauenthal Theater has been the **cornerstone of downtown Muskegon**. Today, its impact continues to ripple through a diverse range of arts and entertainment experiences.

The Frauenthal Theater is showing wear from years of steady use. An engineering study identified more than \$7 million in fundamental structural needs, renovation, and preservation that are critical to the theater's future and use. Worthy of preservation, the Frauenthal Theater serves as a source of creative inspiration, enriching our vibrant community.

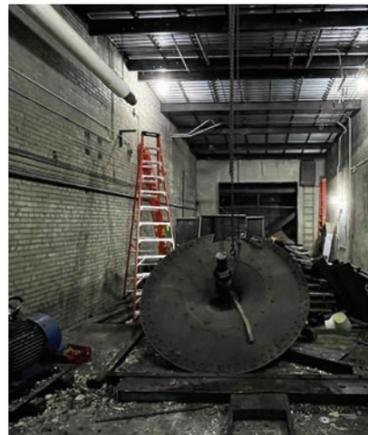
Thanks to the support of the **Howmet Aerospace Foundation, Consumers Energy Foundation, and local donors**, \$4.2 million toward an initial goal of \$5.1 million has been raised to help address the most pressing needs, with several improvements already in place:

- 102 new, historically accurate windows not only reflect architect C. Howard Crane's original intention and design, but they are also double-paned with a UV protective coating to help the facility save on energy costs.
- A state-of-the-art HVAC system was installed to improve air quality and filtration. The large air handler room (pictured right, before and after), had the original blower unit from the construction of the theater in 1929.
- Fire escapes in the alley behind the theater have been repaired and reinforced.



The Frauenthal Theater (formerly the Michigan Theater) in 1930, photo courtesy of the Lakeshore Museum Center

## BEFORE



## AFTER



Planned improvements include an updated sound and video system, restored marquee, upgraded lighting equipment, replacement of the stage, and heated sidewalks along the perimeter of the facility.

To learn more or to support the campaign, go to [www.frauenthal.org/TheNext90Years](http://www.frauenthal.org/TheNext90Years).

# ARTS & CULTURE



In September of 2020, the **Frauenthal Theater celebrated 90 years** as a West Michigan community gathering place for arts and culture. To commemorate our anniversary last fall, we partnered with Pigeon Hill Brewing Company (pictured below) to create a special batch of German weiss beer, the **Frau Brau**. The label for the Frau Brau was created by designer Lou Jeannot (Low Rez Lab), with key architectural pieces illustrated by local artist Jubenal Rodriguez.



Our historic building has remained through times of great joy and celebration, economic highs and lows, challenges and opportunities that form our character as an organization. As the theater begins to reopen in 2021, we look forward to welcoming everyone back to the Frauenthal for many more standing ovations to come.

Jim and Joyce Muston were Muskegon residents who loved the theater and spent much of their free time volunteering at the Frauenthal Center. Their devotion was evident by their 20 years as Friends of the Frauenthal, volunteers who donate their time, talent, and energy to help sustain the operations of the theater. Most years, they found themselves on the Frauenthal's list of volunteers who logged the most hours, making their presence a staple on show nights. Jim passed in 2015, and with Joyce's passing in 2019, the **Jim & Joyce Muston Fund** was created from their bequest to be a permanent resource to support the Frauenthal Center. This year, their fund's contribution to **The Next 90 Years Frauenthal Preservation Campaign Fund** reflects their lifelong passion for the arts and the historic building they loved.

Like the Mustons, you can help ensure that the Frauenthal Theater's next 90 years continue to inspire, enlighten, and educate our entire community.

If you would like to give a gift to the Frauenthal Preservation Campaign Fund, visit [www.frauenthal.org/donate](http://www.frauenthal.org/donate) today!

# YOUR 60 YEARS

Strengthening the community for decades

As we celebrate **60 years as Muskegon County's partner for giving**, we reflect on all the positive change that has taken place at the Community Foundation over the past year. From subtle updates behind the scenes to the more obvious changes, we wanted to take a moment to celebrate our past as we embrace our future.

**The Community Foundation looks a little different this year.** After over 30 years of use, we've decided to retire our logo in favor of a refreshed brand.

Our previous logo was developed in the 1980s as part of a statewide effort to create a common look and familiarity across all Community Foundations in Michigan. Decades later, many foundations have an established relationship within their own communities, and there is less benefit to maintaining shared branding throughout the state.

While the image of beach grass in the wind has become synonymous with the work we accomplish across Muskegon County, moving in a new direction allows us to create a modern brand that reflects our community, our organization, and our region. We ultimately chose this new logo because of how well it reflects the vibrant and inspiring community we serve.

BEFORE



AFTER



# OF GIVING

**COLLABORATIVE GOALS**

**INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY**

**HOPE & OPPORTUNITY**

The three intersecting shapes represent:

**Who we support:** donors, nonprofits, and the community

**Where we live:** lakeshore, green space, and agriculture

**Why we're here:** advancing educational attainment; fostering a dynamic, local economy; enhancing community trust and promoting prosperity for all

**What we value:** hope and opportunity, particularly for youth; collaborative community goals and decision making; an inclusive community

But most importantly, our logo represents how these many pieces come together for common good, visually demonstrating the collaboration between our work and the greater community. Where these efforts and goals intersect, the Community Foundation's impact - and your generosity - multiplies.

Thank you to the following people who notified us of planned gifts through their estates or created new funds in 2020. These gifts will do great things in our Muskegon County community ... forever.

#### Promise Gifts

Margo Atwell  
Beatrice Christiansen  
Marcia Ketchum  
Paul and Patricia Ladas  
Nora McKee  
David McLeod  
Paul E. and Marjo N. Prinzing

#### New Funds

**Brad & Janice Hilleary Family Fund** – See story on page 7.

**Brevick-Naymick Education Fund** – As a teacher of English at Muskegon Community College, Jan Naymick certainly knows the power of education. Through her fund, Jan is honoring her late parents and supporting students' education through First Evangelical Lutheran Church.

**Dave & Carol McLeod Fund** – See story on page 11.

**Gary & Kay Ostrom Fund** – Gary and Kay were Muskegon fixtures, known for his role with the Muskegon Chronicle and her work as an educator. They were also known for their tremendous commitment to this community. Though Gary passed away in 2016 and Kay in 2020, the unrestricted gift from their estate means the community they loved will always have their support.

**Harry & Marjorie Perks Fund** – Harry & Marjorie planned an estate gift to their community in 2009. When Marjorie passed in 2020, their gift created this fund to provide forever support for three organizations that were dear to them: Johnson Family Center for Cancer Care, Muskegon Rescue Mission, and Masonic Pathways Senior Living Services.

**Harry J. & Katherine Jean Knudsen Fund** – Long ago, the Knudsens built into their estate plans a gift to their community. When Katherine passed in 2020, this fund was created to be a permanent resource to support education in our community.

**Jim & Joyce Muston Fund** – See story on page 15.

**Julie Schugars Memorial Scholarship Fund** – See story on page 4.

**K. Wayne & Joyce Dulyea Fund** – Wayne Dulyea created a Charitable Gift Annuity years ago, setting in motion the plans that would create this fund. He received quarterly payments for the rest of his life, and when he passed in 2020, the remainder of the annuity created a Donor Advised Fund, with his son Joel Dulyea serving as its advisor. Joel will honor his dad's wishes to support North Muskegon Public Schools and Harbor Hospice, as well as have the flexibility to support other causes.

**Meinert Family Fund for Meinert Park Natural Spaces** – While Laura Dake lives out of state, she is honoring her Meinert family roots and her strong memories of the park that bears the family name. Over the last few years, she has built up to the creation of this fund for the preservation, protection, and expansion of wetlands and natural spaces in the park.

**Muskegon Community Concert Association Fund** – The Muskegon Community Concert Association has long supported live musical performances in the community, including the free Indianapolis Opera performance for school children in the Frauenthal Theater each year. While the organization is no longer in existence, their fund will continue to support live musical performances.

**Muskegon High School Class of 1959 Legacy Fund** – In the spring of 2019, Big Reds Ted Bensinger and Don Schneider were approaching their 60th class reunion. They decided the occasion should be marked with the creation of a Scholarship Fund to support future Big Reds, and they rallied their classmates' support. In 2020, they topped their initial goal of \$25,000, and the Muskegon High School Class of 1959 Legacy Fund was created.

**Muskegon Wellness Fund** – Monica and Tony Verplank live in Spring Lake and have been active philanthropists in Ottawa County. They've decided to include Muskegon County in their "philanthropic neighborhood" and have created this fund to support wellness initiatives, with a particular focus on social justice and equity.

**Neal/McGuigan Family Fund** – Before her retirement in 2018, Chris spent 19 years as the President & CEO of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. Under her leadership, the organization worked to make a positive impact across the county, including efforts to build a more inclusive community. Chris and Gary utilized CARES Act charitable tax incentives to create this Donor Advised Fund, which will be used to support causes they care about, including racial equity.

**Paul Roy Memorial Fund** – Dr. Patricia Roy created this fund with memorial gifts given when her husband, Paul, passed away in late 2019. Paul worked for Muskegon County and was instrumental in the beginning of the rebuilding of downtown Muskegon. Patti added to the fund and will serve as its advisor, recommending grants that reflect their family's commitment to this community.

**Peter J. & Barbara J. Kutches Scholarship Fund** – Though not from here, Pete and Barbara Kutches made a mark in Muskegon. A nurse at Mercy Hospital, Barbara rose to leadership as the director of nursing. Pete was best known as a football coach, winning state championships as a head coach at both Muskegon Catholic Central and Reeths-Puffer in a career spanning four decades. Of the 13 children in his family, Pete was the only one to get a college degree because of a scholarship he was awarded. After his passing in 2019, memorial gifts seeded the Scholarship Fund, and Barbara used a tax-free distribution from her IRA to build it up.

**R. Budd & Janet Kelsey Werner Fund** – Budd and Janet lived in North Muskegon, raising their family here while Budd worked for Sealed Power/SPX. With his work, they eventually moved away and lived in three other communities. When Budd passed away in 2019, annuities he'd purchased provided gifts to all four of these communities. In 2020, Janet gave additional gifts, adding to the Greater Muskegon Service League's

Women & Children's Fund and creating an Unrestricted Fund for community betterment in their name.

**Ray & Lillian Remus Education Fund** – Ray & Lillian Remus were big proponents of education, especially the higher education available to Muskegon County residents locally. Through a gift in their estate established decades ago, their fund supports education at Muskegon Community College and Baker College.

**Rick M. Murak and Joseph A. Panici Fund** – See story on page 8.

**Sarah's Fund** – David Bayne recently sold his business, Muskegon Awning, and figured he had some "reckoning to do" with the community that had been good to him over the years. He established this Donor Advised Fund in his daughter's name, and she will succeed him as the advisor to the fund.

**Sherry's Secret Stash Fund** – Sherry Becker is a financial advisor who helps her clients save and invest toward their goals. She's savvy with her own investing and generosity, too. She created this Donor Advised Fund so she can give using appreciated stocks to save taxes, allowing her to have even more fun giving money away.

**Steve & Marge LeBel Fund** – Steve and Marge LeBel are excited that they have the ability to engage with the nonprofit community through their newly formed Donor Advised Fund in Steve's hometown. Steve and Marge plan to be active in granting, especially to animal causes and the local environment.

**Zeller Family Scholarship Fund** – Tom and Jill Zeller have always appreciated the education they and their children received from Fruitport Community Schools. They felt it was time to give back to the schools that had given them so much, and this scholarship will help propel future Fruitport grads toward success.

**To start a fund of your own, contact [gifts@muskegonfoundation.org](mailto:gifts@muskegonfoundation.org).**



# FOR GOOD. FOR EVER.

Your gift to the Community Foundation will make an impact, today and in the future.

If everyone leaves 5% of their estate to a Community Foundation fund, over \$680 million will be invested in Muskegon County by 2055!

**Love your community. Leave 5%.**

Community Foundation for Muskegon County  
425 W. Western Ave., Ste. 200 | Muskegon, MI 49440  
231.722.4538 | [muskegonfoundation.org](http://muskegonfoundation.org)

*Celebrating Muskegon, photo courtesy of Visit Muskegon*